

HTML Tags

Software to begin...

To script in raw HTML one has to use a text editor, or a word processor that will save in raw text, but with an .htm, or .html suffix on the file name. To get a straight text file, go to JEdit (<http://www.jedit.org/index.php?page=download>) and select a version appropriate to the operating system you are using. I suggest using the Stable version. You may have to scroll down the page to see it in the second group of downloads.

Setting up the HTML Page

Tags are special terms that are set off from text by < and > symbols. The < opens a tag, while the > closes the tag. Tags usually operate in pairs, using an opening tag and a closing tag. The / symbol indicates a closing tag.

An HTML page is so designated by the very first item on the page being <html>, while the very last thing on a page is </html>.

Head and Body

An HTML page has a head (<head> </head>) and a body (<body> </body>).

The head contains mainly metadata about the page that is used by search engines. About the only thing you can see in the head is the title <title>xxx</title>, which is in the window header for the page.

Most of what appears inside the window of the page is in the body of the page. To see how this works, prepare a simple page with your name (not mine) in the title and a Welcome to my page! statement in the body, like this:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Tony Krug's Page</title>
</head>
<body>
Welcome to my page!
</body>
</html>
```

As you save this page, select as a file type text. Do not allow the Automatic File Name Extension. Append .html to your filename.

No spaces are allowed in a file name. Where you might want a space, use either a dash or an underscore, or just run things together. Short page names are good and running together abbreviations of the words in the name generally is shorter than using dashes or underscores.

When you have saved your file, go to a browser and Open File to open this file. Look for where the title appears in the window header and to see your welcome message in the body, or window, of the page.